

BOOK REVIEW

PATRICIA FOLLEY. 2011. **The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers**. (ISBN: 978-1-60938-046-5, pbk). University of Iowa Press, 119 West Park Road, 100 Kuhl House, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1000, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.uiowapress.org, 1-800-621-2736). \$39.95, 312 pp., 415 color photos, 1 color map, 6" × 9".

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Oklahoma is a beautiful state and home to some 2,500 species of flowering plants. Patricia Folley has captured in full color some 200 striking and beautiful wildflowers. From the state wildflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) to the state grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), this wildflower guide covers plants growing in the Rocky Mountain foothills in the northwest to the cypress swamps of the southeast and a lot in between.

Each species is illustrated with at least two photos, showing the habit and a close-up of the flower. Text wise, there is a short description, followed by the geographic area of the state where the species grows, flowering time, and typical habitat. Common and scientific names are provided but not the family name. The organization of the book is taxonomic with monocots first then followed by dicots with families (not noted) and genera in phylogenetic order. This arrangement is difficult to follow for the nonbotanist. It would seem an organization by flower color would have made using the book for identification purposes much easier. The color index in the back of the book is organized into four color groups and then alphabetical by common name. So unless you know the common name, finding your plant by flower color can take time.

As a native Oklahoman, I was disappointed to not find the state tree of Oklahoma (redbud, *Cercis canadensis*) included. Surely the redbud—with its mass of striking pink flowers—is more colorful and noticeable than *Juncus marginatus* (grassleaf rush). I looked hard but also failed to find the state floral emblem, the mistletoe (*Phoradendron serotinum*).

But if you love wildflowers, and Oklahoma ones at that, then you'll find *The Guide to Oklahoma Wildflowers* worthwhile to have in your library and perhaps a second copy in your automobile.—Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.